



Montclair State College

UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ 07043

for
HBA

October 17, 1983

Zulima Farber, Esq.
Lowenstein, Sandler, Brochin, Kohl, Fisher and Boylan
65 Livingston Avenue
Roseland, NJ 07068

Dear Zulima:

I am writing to you in your role as President of the Hispanic Bar Association. We would like to put before the Hispanic Bar Association a proposal which we feel will result in greater access for disadvantaged minority students seeking entry to law school and the paralegal profession. This letter and the following information are designed to provide further information in support of our request for your organization to consider the possibility of a scholarship award to a disadvantaged minority Pre-Law or paralegal student at Montclair State College. We would like to briefly describe our program and, in particular, areas which may be of special interest to you.

Montclair State is the only four-year college in New Jersey whose Paralegal Studies Program has received the approval of the American Bar Association. During the 1982-83 academic year a new Pre-Law Studies Program was approved at Montclair State College. This interdisciplinary program is designed to develop the writing, reading, and analytical skills of students who plan to attend law school. It is a Minor, whose purpose is to enhance the student's major area of expertise. Thus, the College can now serve the needs of students who plan applied careers in law as paralegals or who aspire to law school.

In August of this year, the College's Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the Center for Legal Studies, with three main goals in mind:

- To unify the Pre-Law and Paralegal Studies Programs into a single unit for students interested in the legal field
- To provide appropriate counselling and information for students
- To represent Montclair State College's leadership role in undergraduate legal studies in relation to law schools, the organized bar, and the general public through activities such as conferences, research, and consultation projects.

Foremost among the goals of the new Center is the stimulation of interest and the maintenance of high standards in pre-legal and paralegal education. As you know, the 75th anniversary celebration at Montclair State College includes New Jersey's First Law School Admissions Day, to be held at Montclair State College on October 26, 1983, and the Minorities in Law panel, to be held on December 6, 1983.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION

The creation of the Center for Legal Studies will enable us to attempt to deal meaningfully with the problems of equal access to legal careers by minority and disadvantaged students. It is our goal to develop special methods of skill development, remediation, tutorials, and counseling, to better prepare disadvantaged Montclair State College students for law school or paralegal careers.

In this effort we are working together with the College's Educational Opportunity Fund Program. As you may know, the E.O.F. Program was established in 1968 to provide educational opportunity and assistance to educationally and financially disadvantaged students with potential and motivation, who would otherwise have little chance of attending institutions of higher learning. Students in the College's S.T.P. Program are under a similar educational disadvantage to that of the E.O.F. students, but they are slightly above the income guidelines for E.O.F. and so are not entitled to any scholarships.

Our programs make several particularly worthwhile contributions to the legal field and to students. The Paralegal Program provides attorneys with competent trained personnel who can fulfill many legal functions far more cost-effectively than staff attorneys. We provide students with marketable skills which will enable them to find satisfying employment, or which they can use as a stepping stone to higher goals. In particular, our program provides career ladders for disadvantaged and minority students. The Pre-Law Program serves a similar function in the preparation of students aspiring to law school. In the case of disadvantaged students who enter law school under special admissions criteria, the new Legal Studies Skill Development Program should help to ameliorate and remediate difficulties before these students are faced with the challenges of law school, thereby reducing the rate of failure.

The specific proposal which we suggest would make available scholarship funds to E.O.F. or S.T.P. disadvantaged minority students interested in careers as attorneys. A second possibility would be the provision of a similar scholarship to a student interested in a paralegal career. We realize that our proposal is out of the ordinary, since most scholarships reward minority students who have already made it into law school. We would like to give students the remediation, skill development and extra boosts at the undergraduate level, so that they enter law school with fewer deficiencies and greater chances.

In response to these program needs and to maintain the outstanding leadership role of the Paralegal and Pre-Law Studies Programs at Montclair State College, we are seeking the support of the Hispanic Bar Association. We are most grateful for your consideration of our request and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Frankenthaler
Marilyn Frankenthaler, Director
The Center for Legal Studies

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